

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 29, 2021

The Honorable Matt Cartwright, Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and
Related Agencies.
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Robert Aderholt, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and
Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Cartwright and Ranking Member Aderholt,

As you consider Fiscal Year 2022 appropriations, we ask for continued funding for drug courts and veterans treatment courts at the Department of Justice

Drug courts and veterans treatment courts unite public health and public safety to transform the justice system's response to addiction and mental illness by offering an evidence-based alternative to incarceration that combines treatment and accountability. Drug courts and veterans treatment courts have saved billions of tax dollars and led more than 1.5 million people to a path of long-term recovery through programs in all 50 states and four territories.

Continued support of these programs is vitally important this year as the nation battles the overlapping COVID-19 and substance use disorder crises. Investment in these evidence-based programs must continue to help state and local leaders rebuild and increase their capacity to address the effects of these crises in the coming years.

Adult drug courts are considered the most effective and fiscally responsible response to our nation's overcrowded prisons and addiction epidemics. The U.S. Government Accountability Office reported in 2011 that drug courts reduce crime by up to 58 percent. Research also shows that about 60 percent of drug court participants complete at least 12 months of treatment, as compared with only 10 percent of probationers and parolees. The most comprehensive study on drug courts to date, the U.S. Department of Justice's National Multi-Site Adult Drug Court Evaluation, concluded that drug courts provide an average cost savings of \$6,000 per participant.

Veterans treatment courts utilize the highly successful drug court model to aid former members of the armed services who suffer from substance use disorders, mental health conditions, or trauma. Veterans treatment courts save the lives, families, and futures of veterans by providing them a highly structured program that connects them with local, state, and federal resources.

We hope you support the work of drug courts and veterans treatment courts in the Fiscal Year 2022 appropriation process. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Andy Barr
Member of Congress

Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress

David Kustoff
Member of Congress

Elissa Slotkin
Member of Congress

Greg Pence
Member of Congress

Seth Moulton
Member of Congress

Eric Swalwell
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Donald S. Beyer Jr.
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Marc A. Veasey
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Stephen F. Lynch
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